

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 123658 TOSEC 020053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, CA, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: REQUEST FOR TELEVISION
INTERVIEW (S/S NO. 7510737)

REF: OTTAWA 1955

FOR THE SECRETARY THROUGH HARTMAN AND SONNENFELDT FROM
ARMITAGE

1. PROBLEM: IN LIGHT OF DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING YOUR
SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE A VISIT TO CANADA, AMBASSADOR PORTER
(IN REFTTEL) URGES YOU TO CONSIDER TAPING AN INTERVIEW FOR
BROADCAST ON A CANADIAN TELEVISION NETWORK IN JUNE.

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS: WHEN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER
ALLAN MACEACHEN VISITED YOU HERE MARCH 31, YOU PROMISED
TO TRY TO RETURN THE CALL IN MAY OR JUNE. AN OTTAWA VISIT
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HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE, BUT YOUR COMMITMENT TO

VISIT HAS BEEN EMBRACED BY GOC AND HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PRESS.

3. AMBASSADOR PORTER SUGGESTS INTERVIEW ON CTV, TELEVISION NETWORK WITH LARGEST ELITE OPINION-MAKING AUDIENCE IN CANADA. PROGRAM WOULD BE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON WORLD AFFAIRS GENERALLY RATHER THAN US/CANADIAN TOPICS. HE SAYS INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR YOUR EFFORTS REMAINS HIGH IN CANADA AND SUCH PROGRAM WOULD BE WARMLY RECEIVED. HE OBSERVES THAT IF YOU VISIT OTTAWA IN NEAR FUTURE, PROGRAM WOULD BE SPLENDID PRELUDE. IF NOT, IT WOULD BE EXCELLENT TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE.

4. PROGRAM COULD BE IN EITHER "MEET THE PRESS" FORMAT WITH CANADIAN POLITICAL COMMENTATORS INCLUDING MODERATOR BARRY DUNAMORE, FORMER ABC ANALYST, SITTING IN TORONTO AND INTERVIEWING YOU ON AN AUDIO-VISUAL HOOKUP WITH WASHINGTON; OR BY FILM INTERVIEW IN DEPARTMENT WITH ONE OF NETWORK'S SENIOR ANALYSTS WHO COULD COME TO WASHINGTON. EMBASSY OTTAWA WOULD WORK OUT DETAILS WITH AMBASSADOR ANDERSON OR WHOMEVER YOU DESIGNATE.

5. PROGRAM WOULD BE TELEVISED SUNDAY EVENING ON CANADA'S PREMIER PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM. JUNE 8, 15, 22, AND 29 ARE POSSIBILITIES (PROGRAM OFF AIR IN JULY BECAUSE OF DECREASING SUMMER AUDIENCE).

6. TV PROGRAM COULD HAVE GREAT IMPACT ON CANADIAN PUBLIC AND WOULD HELP SUSTAIN GENERALLY DESIRABLE IMPRESSION (NOURISHED BY TRUDEAU-FORD VISIT AND RECENT MINISTERIAL LEVEL VISITS) THAT US IS NOT TAKING CANADA FOR GRANTED BUT IS ACCORDING IT THE CONSIDERATION DUE AN IMPORTANT ALLY AND TRADING PARTNER. PROGRAM COULD ALSO ENLIGHTEN CANADIAN PUBLIC AND STRENGTHEN ITS SUPPORT OF YOUR US FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES, PARTICULARLY IN ENERGY, ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE FIELDS, AS WELL AS IN MIDDLE EAST AND PACIFIC IN POST-VIETNAM ERA. OF COURSE, MINISTER MACEACHEN WOULD NOT ACCEPT PROGRAM AS SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR EXPECTED OTTAWA VISIT. IF YOUR INTERVIEW

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INCLUDED SOME GRACIOUS REMARKS ABOUT HIM AND TRUDEAU, HOWEVER, HE MIGHT ATTACH LESS URGENCY TO VISIT.

7. OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: CONCUR IN AMBASSADOR PORTER'S SUGGESTION THAT YOU BE INTERVIEWED IN WASHINGTON FOR CANADIAN TELEVISION. YOU WOULD HAVE YOUR CHOICE OF TOPICS, AND ARRANGEMENTS

AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

ADVANTAGES:

-- COULD BE TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE FOR THE VISIT TO OTTAWA WHICH YOU PROMISED SECRETARY MACEACHEN.

-- COULD STRENGTHEN POPULAR SUPPORT IN CANADA FOR US FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES.

DISADVANTAGES:

-- WOULD NOT END GOC EXPECTATION OF A VISIT.

OPTION 2: DECLINE AMBASSADOR PORTER'S SUGGESTION FOR TELEVISION INTERVIEW BUT AGREE TO SET DATE FOR VISIT TO OTTAWA AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

ADVANTAGES:

-- COMMITMENT TO FIX DATE FOR VISIT WOULD BE MORE SATISFYING TO MACEACHEN AND GOC.

-- WOULD ALLOW YOU TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL BUSINESS WITH GOC AS WELL AS TO HAVE SOME OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC EXPOSURE IN CANADA.

DISADVANTAGES:

-- WOULD LOSE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN US POLICY BEFORE CANADIAN-WIDE AUDIENCE.

OPTION 3: HAVE TELEVISION INTERVIEW IN ADDITION TO VISIT TO OTTAWA.

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ADVANTAGES:

-- WOULD MEAN DOUBLE-BARRELLED EXPOSURE WITH ATTENDANT OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF US OBJECTIVES.

DISADVANTAGES:

-- WOULD REQUIRE MORE OF YOUR TIME.

-- WOULD PROBABLY DUPLICATE USUAL NEWS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED WHEN YOU VISIT A FOREIGN CAPITAL.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS:

YOUR FIRST OBLIGATION IS TO SATISFY THE OUTSTANDING GOC
INVITATION FOR YOU TO VISIT OTTAWA, ACCORDINGLY, WE
RECOMMEND THAT YOU ACCEPT OPTION 2.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

IF APPROVED, ASK EUR TO ARRANGE FOR A DATE IN JULY (AUGUST
IS A VACATION MONTH IN OTTAWA)

YES NO OTHER MONTH

ALTERNATIVELY, IF YOU CANNOT COMMIT YOURSELF TO A VISIT
TO OTTAWA FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THAT YOU ACCEPT OPTION
1.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

CLEARED IN S/PRS BY FUNSETH; C, MR. ROBBINS AND S/S. INGERSOLL

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